

PERSHING CHATTER

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Welcome Mat Is Spread for Low Sevens

All of Pershing is glad to have you in our school. We remember how lost we were the first few days and how few people we saw that we knew. Pershing will seem awfully large to you for a while, but the longer you are here the less complicated things will be.

Your life at school will be what you make it. Pershing has many honors to offer, in scholastics, athletics, and leadership.

Scholarships are awarded at the end of each semester. If you are athletic minded, we have football, track, baseball, swimming, and basketball. Primarily, we are here to learn, so one's grades must be good to be eligible for participation. There are also other activities such as Glee Club, Dramatics, Chatter Club, Shop and Projection Club. Whatever your talent or hobby, we can help you.

We are proud of our school building and have tried to keep it clean and nice so that others will enjoy it as well as we have. We hope that you too, will take pride in our school.

Pershing isn't all work for we have lots of fun, too. Our dances are great and we never miss an opportunity to have one. Be sure and plan to attend our next social function.

Pershing is one of the many schools that stress "school spirit." It was not only the football team that won the Football Trophy for us two years ago, but the great turn outs and the spirit of all the students. All of us here at Pershing hope to see you out at the games next season.

You will find Mr. Ratliff, our principal, and Mr. Denson, our assistant principal, willing to let you go your own way, as long as it is in the right direction. The student body governs itself, by way of the Student Council. Our faculty doesn't ask the impossible, co-operation is the main thing you will have to give them. If you have problems, just talk it over with one of them (your teachers), and we are sure you will find the solution.

Every sound structure must have a strong foundation. You, the low sevens, are that foundation. The responsibility of Pershing's future lies on your shoulders. We are sure this structure will be held high. May your days at Pershing be happy ones and may we say again "Welcome Low Sevens."

—Sabra Stratton

New Term Resolutions Are In Order

Well, kids. A new term is beginning and we all have a chance to "turn over a new leaf." A new year has just been born and it's not too late to make a few New Year's Resolutions.

Why not start the new term right by giving ourselves and our teachers a break? Resolve to co-operate with them to the fullest extent.

At the present, you might not think that it is important to get an education; but remember, you won't always have this chance, so, take advantage of it now. Almost any vocation that you plan to go into requires at least a high school diploma. It might be said that time spent in school is wasted unless you learn something.

Those who are entering the ninth grade have a special responsibility to acquire as much knowledge as possible. This term starts their credits. If you have plans to receive any scholarships when you graduate from high school, it would be wise to *begin studying this year*, because your grades from this year on mean more than marks on a report card.

Resolve to be fair to yourself and to your teachers. There is no time like the present to begin.

—Dorothy Reese

Library News

LIBRARY CLUB MEMBERS TO ATTEND CONVENTION

On February 19, 40 students from the Houston Public Schools went to San Antonio for a conference of the Texas Teen Age Library Association.

This library association is the association of library assistants throughout the state. The convention was held in the Plaza Hotel in San Antonio starting at noon, Friday, with the registration period.

The theme of the convention was "The Library-My American Heritage." There were several sessions in which there were speakers and other features.

The Pershing students who attended this convention left at 8:00 A.M. Friday by a chartered bus. Besides attending the convention, Pershing students were taken to see some of the interesting sights of San Antonio.

MRS. STONE, NEW LIBRARIAN

Pershing has recently acquired a new assistant librarian. She is Mrs. Betsy Stone and is replacing Miss Rosemary Kirchman.

Mrs. Stone is quite experienced for she has been librarian at some of the well known libraries. These include the Harris County Library, Texas State Library, New York Public Library and the Rice Institute Library.

COMMENCEMENT

Mamma kiss him onna cheek. Sister think he look so sweet. Papa slap him onna back— Say it's great, an' that's a fact! Cause now he's got his little skin To wrap his little knowledge in.

To The Mid-Term High Niners

That time for which you have worked, waited and longed is here. What enormous and strange changes have taken place since you entered three years ago as unexperienced, scared and curious low sevens. You are the last group of Pershingites whom I did not know as low sevens, but I'm sure you went through the same trials and tribulations as those I have seen enter. Some of you have made grand records, others good records and still others not so good.

Looking back over the three years, do you take pride in the progress you have made or the advantage you have taken of the opportunity to develop physically, mentally or socially as you should? Have you contributed anything that would make Pershing a better school? Have you received anything from your teachers or schoolmates that would improve your efficiency or make you able to enjoy life more? These are the things to think about as you go into senior high.

Naturally, I rejoice with you in your reaching the top of the junior high ladder, and I also have a feeling of regret when I think of your leaving. But this is just another step in your growing up and as you leave Pershing I hope that you know that you have my best wishes for a successful and happy senior high experience. Have fun in school life, but be serious when it is time for seriousness. Remember, that you get out of school what you put into it and that happiness in life comes from proper responses to experiences and from the attitudes you build toward your work, your play and the people with whom you come in contact.

Thoughts for Mid-Term

We are all so busy finishing the old semester and getting ready to start the new one that we often fail to give thought to what the change means. It is well for each of us to pause and think what is happening. In what ways are things better now because of what we have done; how are they worse?

If you have grown up four and a half months intellectually, emotionally and socially this semester you have just held your own. If you have grown more than that you have stored up something for the future. If you have grown less you will have to draw on the future to hold your own. How much have you grown?

If you are a low seven you have learned enough about Pershing Junior High School to take advantage of all the opportunities offered. If you are going into the eighth grade you are becoming eligible to affiliate with one of the service groups and really help make Pershing a better school. If you are going to be a ninth grade pupil you are in position to contribute to the other pupils in a way that will help them realize more from their time here. You will grow in proportion to the contribution you make.

If you are going on to senior high school you are not just changing from high nine to low ten. You are going from childhood to young adulthood. You are leaving the age when people shared your responsibilities and moving into the age when you are going to have to assume them yourself. You are moving closer and closer to the big decisions and responsibilities. You take with you as you leave the best wishes of all of us at Pershing. We are confident you will be a credit to the school.

Whoever and whatever you are, how do you stand at the end of the old semester and what are your plans to make the most of the new one?

—Mr. Ratliff.

RAMBLIN' ROUND

By Terry Van Wagner

HAPPY NEW YEAR, from all of us on the CHATTER staff to all you pandas.

I was just thinking that we're going to lose four high nine homerooms when this term ends and get about 200 new low seven students. Gee, how time flies!

There seems to have been a lot of entertaining going on over the holidays. Everyone had some kind of dance, get to gether, coke party, or slumber party. Carol Jeanne Hanks and Linda Hegwer had a punch party. Joann Koberling gave a coke party. Norma Adams, Patti Oliver, Louise Wright, and Janie Yoder also had a coke party. Gayle Holliman and Virginia Schilling

had a Brunch. Cora Dorman, Martha Halksted, Peggy Johnston, Jimmy Nacol, Celest Ullrich, Carol Vincient, Virginia Williams and Dorothy Wilson gave a dance at West University Community Hall. Sandy Taylor and Jamie Holt gave a dance too. Jerry Cude had a small get together at his house. Maria Butos had a dance also. Linda Standridge gave a slumber party and Ada Kathryn Robins gave a luncheon.

John Biggs had his tonsils out over the holidays, but we see now he is back at school.

Judy Faulkner sure is having all the bad luck.

The Mardi Gras Ball that the CHATTER CLUB had in January was a real lot of fun. Alan Sweeton and his orchestra furnished some wonderful music and some interesting entertainment was provided by members of our school. But all in all a real great time was had by all.

Norma Adams sure made a precious Snowflake Queen.

Congratulations, Betty Conrad! Hear you were runner up in a beauty contest down town.

Since this the last issue of the CHATTER before you high nines leave, the CHATTER staff wishes you all the best of luck over at Lamar or San Jacinto wherever you go, and we know that you will be a big success over there. Good Luck to all of you.

Arlene Strong and Phyllis Walker sure are flashing some pretty rings around. My goodness, diamonds yet.

Carol Vincient wrote a real cute song.

We heard that the pupils of Mrs. Long's sixth period speech class were making wishes for others. Ted Gobble was heard to say, "I wish Gus Keorner would leave a few of the girls to us poor fellows."

My time has run out and so this ends another "Ramblin' Round"—Keep the news coming in.

The Science Dept.

By Larry Wolf

The main idea of science in our school system is to start science in kindergarten, very simplified, and continue building knowledge through high school.

In Pershing, a student may take science from the high seventh grade through the high ninth grade.

The high seventh course takes in nature study. This includes classification of plants and animals and detailed study of birds and insects. Physiology is included in the last six weeks.

The low eighth grade includes the concept of space and the nature of the universe. These eighth graders have a close study of the earth, its structure, and its change. Also included is the study of the atmosphere and a unit on conservation of our natural resources.

The high eighth grade consists of a major unit on driver education. Through this study, students learn how to drive safely, thus being better citizens. They are taught the parts of the automobile, how it runs, and how to master it. The purpose of this course is explained in the following verse written by a student of Mr. Moss:

Carry your license to drive with pride,
For how shamed you'd be were it once denied.
It is sworn-to proof that the rules you know,
That you're neither stupid nor witty-
That the state through its officers finds you are
Fit to be trusted to drive a car.

The ninth grade is a foundation for high school work. The low nine begins this foundation while the high nine is a continuation. This foundation is for chemistry, physics, and biology. These courses help in selecting a specific field of science to study.

Introducing --- The New Teachers

Here are two more new teachers.

Our first new teacher is Mrs. Kathleen Payne, who teaches English. She attended Sam Houston State Teachers College and the University of Houston. Mrs. Payne majored in English and minored in social studies. She has taught in Galveston, Houston, and Japan.

She, with her husband, lived in the Panama Canal Zone during 1945 and 1946. Mrs. Payne's hobby is collecting curios from foreign countries. Mr. and Mrs. Payne enjoy traveling, giving magic shows, and collecting antiques. Many of their antiques and curios are oriental objects. Mrs. Payne is originally a Texan.

Our next teacher is Mr. George Evans. Mr. Evans teaches English. He attended Baylor University and graduated from there in 1950. Mr. Evans was born in Smithville, Texas, and graduated from Smithville High School in 1946. Mr. Evans received his Bachelor of Arts degree at Baylor in Journalism. Mr. Evans entered the Air Force in January, 1951, and became an Air Force instructor. He was stationed at Lackland, in San Antonio.

We are happy to have these new teachers at Pershing and hope they enjoy it here.

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Chatter Dance Has Mardi Gras Theme

By Bonnie Van Griethuysen

A Mardi Gras Ball was given by the Chatter Club on Friday, January 8, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

The music was provided by Alan Sweeton and the "Sweetones." Randy Moore, acting as master of ceremonies, started the floor show off by introducing Sally Stuart who played "I'm Walking Behind You" on her accordion. Then renditions of "Sentimental Me," "In

the Mission of St. Augustine," and "Bermuda" were given by the Mel-odeers Sharon Bender, Patsy Miller, and Suzanne Alpha. Arlene Meyer, Billie Roy, and Tommy Tune provided a soft shoe number to "Tea for Two." Arlene Strong and Randy Moore did a pantomime to "Rice et al." Two members of the orchestra, George Barry, and another member provided some laughs when they sang "How Much Is That Hound Dog in the Window" and "Hi Ho, Silver."

The cafeteria was decorated in the spirit of the Mardi Gras. Balloons filled with helium floated on the ceiling trailing gay streamers. They were also filled with confetti which showered down when a balloon was broken. Huge masks edged with ruffles of aqua and purple, balloons, and streamers decorated the walls. On the screens that formed the backdrop for the orchestra were two large heads of Mardi Gras revellers.

The Prescription

Mr. Jones' handwriting was very illegible, and especially when writing orders of admission to the theatre. One day at New Orleans, Mr. Brown obtained one of these from him for a friend. On handing it to the gentleman, the latter observed, that if he had not known what it was supposed to be, he would never have suspected what it was. "It looks more like a prescription than anything else," he added.

"So it does," said Mr. Brown; "let us go and have it made up."

Turning into the nearest drug store, the paper was given to the clerk, who gave it a careless glance, and then proceeded to get a bottle ready. With another look at the order, down came a tincture bottle. When the bottle was half filled, there was a pause. The gentleman attendant was evidently puzzled. At last he broke down completely and rang for his principal, an elderly and severe looking individual who came with haste. The two whispered together an instant, then the old man looked at the document, and with an expression of pity for the ignorance of his helper, boldly filled the bottle with some fluid, and coolly corked and labeled it. Then handing it to the gentleman he said, with a smile, "A cough mixture, and a very good one. Fifty cents, if you please."

Cury Acree, Gail Allred, Jim Barkley, David Brookwell, Jim Brown, Eddie Cantrell, Mary Cisneros, Willard Gray, Lyndon Parks, Calvin Shelton, Sharon Stovall, James Tillman.

—Frances Lloyd

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Showtime at the Mardi Gras Ball. Billie Roy, Tommy Tune and Arlene Meyer entertain with a dance number to "Tea for Two."

Panda Cub Album

This issue's pandas in the album were Arlene and Don Strong. Arlene, a five-foot, two-inch strawberry blond, is a member of Mrs. Cox's homeroom, one of Pershing's cheerleaders, past gym team captain, secretary of her homeroom, and copy editor of the CHATTER. Arlene picks as her favorites: color, green; food, steak; pastime, dancing; sport, swimming; drink, Dr. Pepper.

Don, who had many previous honors at West University Elementary School, is five feet tall, and has black hair and eyes. He picks as his favorites — yellow, fried chicken, 7-up, baseball, and making model airplanes.

Feminine Figures

It is estimated that 85 percent of department store purchases are made by women and they influence 80 percent of the auto sales.

To every widower in the United States there are three widows.

In the United States the average yearly income of women is \$1045, compared to \$2952 earned by men.

Weddings in Morocco last for several days.

Nearly one third of the wage earners in the United States are women.

A law in Hartford, Conn., requires that housewives sweep their sidewalks by 7:00 a.m. each week day.

In Port Rush, Ireland, Mrs. Marie Ashton played a piano for 133 consecutive hours.

All but four members of the Pershing Chatter staff are girls!

Chest X - Rays Given Students

A Mobile unit of the Harris County Tuberculosis Association visited the school January 11 and 12 to make Chest X-rays of the students.

Each year the unit visits Houston schools to make these X-rays. This service is designed to help check the spread of tuberculosis.

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